

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Accompanying Continuation Application Under
37 CFR 1.53(b):

Prior Application: M. IWAYAMA et al
Serial No. 09/442,147
Filed: November 18, 1999

Group Art: 2171
Examiner: C. Rones
For: A METHOD OF SEARCHING DOCUMENTS AND
A SERVICE FOR SEARCHING DOCUMENTS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

February 15, 2002

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above application
as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, before the first line, add the paragraph:

This is a continuation application of U.S. Serial No.
09/442,147 filed November 18, 1999.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-9 without prejudice or disclaimer
and add new claims 10-18 as set forth below.

10. (New) A service for searching documents wherein
servers comprising document databases and programs to

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manipulate said databases are dispersed over a network and a client connected to said servers performs a document search, said service providing a document search method having a function to change over between plural document databases, and a function to search a set of documents having a high relevance to a search input from a selected document database in the order of higher relevance, the input being a set of keywords, fragments of a document or any desired set of documents, wherein the search results from said document database can be used as an input for searching another database.

11. (New) A service for searching documents as defined in claim 10, wherein an interface is provided in which a set of documents from the search result of one document database can be selected or deselected, and a set of documents selected from the search result can be used as the input for searching another database.

12. (New) A service for searching documents as defined in claim 11, wherein a summary containing only topic words in the search input is used to perform a search.

13. (New) A service for searching documents as defined in claim 11, wherein a client transmits a set of documents in a search input to a server where a selected document database is stored, receives a summary comprising only topic words related to the set of documents which is sent, sends a search input corresponding to said summary reflecting a user's evaluation of the summary to a server where another document database is stored, and receives a search result accordingly.

14. (New) A service for searching documents as defined in claim 10, wherein a summary containing only topic words in a search input is used to perform a search.

15. (New) A service for searching documents as defined in claim 10, wherein a client transmits a set of documents in a search input to a server where a selected document database is stored, receives a summary comprising only topic words related to the set of documents which is sent, sends a search input corresponding to said summary reflecting a user's evaluation of the summary to a server where another document database is stored, and receives a search result accordingly.

16. (New) A service for searching documents as defined in claim 15, wherein said server produces a summary from topic words relevant to a set of documents sent by the client and transmits the summary to the client, and searches and transmits a set of documents having a high relevance to any summary sent by the client, to the client.

17. (New) A service for searching documents as defined in claim 15, wherein said client has an interface for specifying a set of documents for search input and document databases to be searched, the set of documents in the search input is sent to a server specified by the user, a summary of the set of documents is received from the specified server, the summary received is sent to a server comprising another document database, and search results are received from the another server and displayed.


18. (New) A service for searching documents wherein servers comprising document databases and programs to manipulate said databases are dispersed over a network and a client connected to said servers performs a document search, said service providing a function for the client to transmit a set of documents in a search input to one of said servers

where a selected document database is stored, receive a summary comprising only topic words related to the set of documents which is sent, send a search input corresponding to said summary reflecting a user's evaluation of the summary to a server where another document database is stored, and receive a search result accordingly, wherein said server produces a summary of topic words relevant to the set of documents sent by the client and transmits the summary to the client, and searches and transmits a set of documents having a high relevance to any desired summary sent by the client, to the client.

REMARKS

Claims 10-18 are now pending.

Respectfully submitted,


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